

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6503

BILL NUMBER: HB 1155

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 3, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Elimination of township government.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Kuzman

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the township government study committee to: (1) study; and (2) prepare legislation for introduction during the 2005 regular session; implementing the transfer of township government functions to county government. It repeals, in 2005, statutes governing the duties of the township trustee, township board, and township assessor.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes the 12-member Township Government Study Committee. The Committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. The Committee would be made up of 6 representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and 6 senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. In the past, Legislative Council resolutions have established budgets for interim study committees ranging from \$6,000 to \$9,000 per interim.

The Committee is to study implementing the transfer of the powers and duties of the township trustee, including the management of township property interests; the administration of poor relief; the duty of fence viewer; the duties of the township assessor; the provision and maintenance of cemeteries; fire protection; the provision and maintenance of township parks and community centers; the destruction of detrimental plants, noxious weeds, and rank vegetation; the provision of insulin to the poor; and any other powers and duties of township government.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill repeals the following statutes effect July 1, 2005:

- IC 36-6-4 Township Executive
- IC 36-6-5 Township Assessor
- IC 36-6-6 Township Legislative Body
- IC 36-6-7 Deputies and Assistants of Townships Officers
- IC 36-6-8 Compensation and Expenses of Township Officers, Deputies, and Employees

Any impact on local expenditures would depend on how the various township functions are eliminated or transferred to other governmental entries. It is currently unknown what the long-term savings could be or the initial costs if functions are transferred.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: Townships, Counties, and Cities.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.